

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 231418Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4361
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 5608

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR AND USNMR SHAPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO, ASEC

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

REFS: (A) STATE 224934, DTG 200057Z SEP 75; (B) LISBON
5062, DTG 011340ZSEP 75 (NOTAL); (C) LISBON
A-26; (D) LISBON 2971, DTG 281311Z MAY 75;
(E) USNATO 5166, DTG 221745Z SEP 75

1. EMBASSY LISBON AGREES WITH DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION
THAT QUESTION OF SECURITY INSPECTION OF PORTUGAL BY NATO
SECURITY DIRECTOR SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE TEMPORARILY,
PENDING FURTHER REVIEW BEFOGE DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD
(REF A).

2. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR AND
FAVORABLE CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF THE GOP
SINCE THE QUESTION FIRST AROSE. WITH THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT
STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FORMATION, IT WOULD BE BEST TO ADOPT
A WAIT AND SEE STANCE UNTIL THE NEW POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
HAS HAD A CHANCE TO AFFECT THE HANDLING OF NATO SECRETS.

3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN THE PAST, AMPLE JUSTIFICATION
UNDOUBTEDLY EXISTS NOW FOR A FINDING THAT THE STANDARDS ARE
INADEQUATE (REF B). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER
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IS THE MAN, WHO AS NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF MADE THE STRONGEST

PRO-NATO STATEMENTS OF ANY GOP OFFICIAL SINCE THE APRIL 1974 COUP (REF C). ADDITIONALLY, AZEVEDO TOLD SOARES A WEEK AGO THAT HE WOULD CLEAN OUT THE LEFT LEANING NAVAL OFFICERS ON HIS PERSONAL STAFF. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUB-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL BE THE SOLIDLY PRO-WEST MANUEL SA MACHADO. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SDCI) NOW BEING RUN BY PRO-COMMUNIST LCDR CONTREIRAS, WILL BE TURNED OVER TO AN ANTI-COMMUNIST OFFICER ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANTUNES GROUP, OR PERHAPS DISMANTLED AND TURNED OVER TO THE ARMED FORCES J-2, WHERE IT WAS LODGED BEFORE THE MARCH 11 LURCH TO THE LEFT.

4. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THERE HAVE BEEN UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZING CAPTAIN RAMIRO CORREIA WILL BE NAMED AZEVEDO'S CHIEF OF CABINET.

5. IN ANY CASE THE SITUATION IS FLUID. WE BELIEVE OUR BEST POLICY WOULD BE FOR THE ALLIES TO GIVE THE NEW REGIME A CHANCE TO SORT THINGS OUT BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH AN ACTION THAT COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS FOR THE ALLIANCE. CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES

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